

Senate Resolution 709

By: Senator Powell of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mrs. Naomi Ruth Barber King; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mrs. Naomi Ruth Barber King stood as a First Lady to the Civil Rights
3 Movement, providing support and encouragement to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
4 and her husband, Reverend Dr. Alfred Daniel Williams King; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. King and her mother, Bessie Barber, moved to Atlanta when she was a
6 child, where she was brought up in the finest clothes, learned the height of social graces, and
7 received a high quality education; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. King's beauty and poise were admired and coveted by others, as she was
9 often selected by local clothing stores to perform as a fashion model and was featured in shop
10 circulars and windows; and

11 WHEREAS, a stellar student who excelled in French and English, Mrs. King's talent in
12 writing poetry, singing, and dancing were held in high esteem, and she had the unique
13 opportunity to address her graduating class at their high school graduation; and

14 WHEREAS, as a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Mrs. King caught the eye of A.D.
15 King, the youngest son of the church's pastor, Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and his
16 wife, Alberta; and

17 WHEREAS, after a story book courtship, she was united in love and marriage to A.D. King,
18 a partnership that would bless her with five remarkable children; and

19 WHEREAS, during their marriage, Mrs. King and her husband would endure bombings of
20 their home and threats to their lives as the Civil Rights Movement gained momentum and
21 changed the world, yet she remained steadfast and provided quiet support to her husband and
22 his brother; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to his vital role in the Civil Rights Movement, Reverend A.D. King
24 shepherded four churches with Mrs. King by his side, initiating harmonious musical concerts,
25 creating women's enrichment programs, and providing gracious tools for living to their
26 devoted congregations; and

27 WHEREAS, after her husband's passing, Mrs. King made a commitment to share with the
28 world his many outstanding contributions, establishing the nonprofit organization, the A.D.
29 King Foundation; and

30 WHEREAS, the A.D. King Foundation educates the public on the real history of the Civil
31 Rights Movement while highlighting Reverend Dr. A.D. King's role and legacy, and a
32 documentary project, *A.D. King: Brother to the Dreamer*, has been created honoring his
33 legendary journey; and

34 WHEREAS, in honor of her incredible commitment to change and progress, Mrs. King was
35 honored with a 2008 Rosa Parks Freedom Award from the Southern Christian Leadership
36 Conference; and

37 WHEREAS, this loving and generous mother, grandmother, and friend is a person of
38 magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness,
39 and kindness, and, by the example she has made of her life, she makes this world a better
40 place in which to live.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 commend Mrs. Naomi Ruth Barber King on her inspiring and selfless service to others and
43 extend their most sincere best wishes for continued health, happiness, and success.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Naomi Ruth Barber King.